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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Yutaka TAKEUCHI et al.

Appln. No.: 10/559,531(Unofficial)

Filed: December 2, 2005

Attorney Dkt. No.: 025416-00024

For: NITRIDING METHOD AND DEVICE

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: April 6, 2006

Sir:

Prior to initial examination of the application, please amend the above-identified application as shown on the following pages.